



Washington Interscholastic Activities Association  
**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**  
**for the 2026 Representative Assembly**

2/1/2026

The ~~strike through~~ text is proposed to be deleted from the current handbook wording. The **bold** and **shaded** text is proposed to be added to the current handbook wording. Modifications that were approved during the Winter Coalition on January 26, 2026 with a 60 percent approval vote by the Representative Assembly delegates are **highlighted**.

The sponsoring school is listed first, followed by the supporting schools. The rationale, pros and cons are presented as submitted. The discussions and/or positions by the leagues, WIAA Districts, and affiliate organizations will take place through March. Positions taken by the affiliate organizations will be provided to the voting delegates prior to the April 8-17, 2026 voting period. Amendments that pass will go into effect on August 1 unless otherwise indicated.

**ML/HS AMENDMENT #1**

**3.6.0 ESTABLISHMENT OF SERVICE FEES**

Page 6

3.6.1 High School Fees: When a high school offers sports and activity programs, the high school tier in which a school is placed is based upon its P223 enrollment figures (grades 9-11, prior to any deductions based upon the enrollment adjustment factor) utilized to determine its classification. A high school will remain within its designated tier during the four-year classification cycle.

<u>HS Tier</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Current fee</u>	<u>Proposed 2027-28 fee</u>
HS-1	1-25	\$ 350.00	\$385.00
HS-2	26-50	\$ 600.00	\$660.00
HS-3	51-100	\$ 800.00	\$880.00
HS-4	101-200	\$1,100.00	\$1210.00
HS-5	201-300	\$1,500.00	\$1,650.00
HS-6	301-450	\$1,900.00	\$2,090.00
HS-7	451-600	\$2,200.00	\$2,420.00
HS-8	601-800	\$2,400.00	\$2,640.00
HS-9	801-1000	\$2,700.00	\$2,970.00
HS-10	1001-1300	\$3,000.00	\$3,300.00
HS-11	1301-1600	\$3,400.00	\$3,740.00
HS-12	1601 +	\$3,800.00	\$4,180.00

3.6.2 High School Fees: When a high school does not offer any sports programs, the high school tier in which a school is placed is based upon its P223 enrollment figures (grades 9-11, prior to any deductions based upon the enrollment adjustment factor) utilized to determine its classification. A high school will remain within its designated tier during the four-year classification cycle unless sports programs are added.

<u>HS Tier</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Fee per school</u>	<u>Proposed 2027-28 fee</u>
HS-1A	1-25	\$ 175.00	\$195.00
HS-2A	26-50	\$ 300.00	\$330.00
HS-3A	51-100	\$ 400.00	\$440.00
HS-4A	101-200	\$ 550.00	\$605.00

**Continuation of ML/HS Amendment #1**

HS-5A	201-300	\$ 750.00	\$825.00
HS-6A	301-450	\$ 950.00	\$1,045.00
HS-7A	451-600	\$1,100.00	\$1,210.00
HS-8A	601-800	\$1,200.00	\$1,320.00
HS-9A	801-1000	\$1,350.00	\$1,485.00
HS-10A	1001-1300	\$1,500.00	\$1,650.00
HS-11A	1301-1600	\$1,700.00	\$1,870.00
HS-12A	1601 +	\$1,900.00	\$2,090.00

3.6.3 Middle Level School Fees: The middle level school tier in which a school is placed is based upon its grade 7 and 8 combined enrollment count as reported to OSPI in the first year of the four (4) year high school classification cycle and will remain that way during the four (4) year high school classification cycle.

<u>ML Tier</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Fee per school</u>	<u>Proposed 2027-28 fee</u>
ML-1	1-100	\$100.00	\$110.00
ML-2	101-250	\$150.00	\$165.00
ML-3	251-400	\$200.00	\$220.00
ML-4	401 +	\$250.00	\$275.00

Submitted by the WIAA Executive Board.

Rationale for Proposed Membership Fees:

*The WIAA Executive Board is proposing a 10% membership fee increase in 2027-28.*

*Currently, the Association receives about \$900,000 from member fees, which accounts for less than 14% of its overall revenues. The proposed fee increase is estimated to generate an additional \$90,000 in new revenues for the Association in 2027-28. Note: This proposal is for MEMBERSHIP FEES ONLY and the proposed costs do not include the Fall Workshops, Wrestling Weight Management or L &I. No changes to these fees are anticipated at this time.*

*By waiting to implement until 2027-28, the membership would have over a year to plan for such an increase.*

History:

*While the Association continues to remain fiscally solvent, decisions must be made to address the revenue side to balance the budget. The WIAA Executive Board has a Finance Sub-Committee, made up of both staff and Board members, who meet each board meeting and continue to assess all areas within the budget to determine what changes or adjustments, within its scope of power, can be made. This group is responsible for creating, monitoring and overseeing the Associations budget.*

Rationale for Need for Revenue Increases:

*The WIAA Board and Staff work hard to hold the line on costs, continue to work diligently with communities to curb facility expenses, and have been creative in generating new and one time revenues. While many expense increases are outside of the Association’s control, The Board and Staff will continue to analyze expenses, on an annual basis, and make cuts as necessary.*

### Continuation of ML/HS Amendment #1

However, any remaining significant cuts could result in eliminating services or substantial changes to the operations of the Association. Therefore, it is important that the revenue side of the Association keeps up with the expense side.

In particular, the costs for legal and insurance alone have exceeded \$500,000, putting extra pressure on the Association's budget.

### ML/HS AMENDMENT #2

---

#### 3.6.0 ESTABLISHMENT OF SERVICE FEES

#### NEW RULE

Page 6

---

The current 3.6.5 will become 3.6.6

**Beginning with the 2028-29 school year, membership fees will increase by five percent in any year immediately following an Auditor's Review establishing back-to-back years of a negative net income, as detailed on the Statement of Activities. The net assets would need to show negative in two sequential years to trigger the five per increase. All increases will be rounded up to the nearest \$5.00 amount.**

**NOTE: The auditors' reviews are presented to the WIAA Executive Board in January, therefore, the determination of such an increase would be announced immediately following that meeting and would be effective for the next fiscal year (effective August 1 after the January meeting.)**

Submitted by the WIAA Executive Board.

#### Rationale for Proposed Membership Fees:

*This amendment would help ensure the Association has a nominal increase in revenues, should the Association experience negative financial outcomes two years in a row. A 5% increase would amount to approximately \$50,000 in additional revenues for the Association. In addition, if the above were to occur, the Board and Staff would review all areas of the budget to get the Association back on track fiscally, as it does each year during the budgeting process.*

### HS AMENDMENT #3

---

#### 4.0.0 HIGH SCHOOL CLASSIFICATIONS

Page 8

---

4.1.3 A school's classification is determined by the average monthly enrollment from January 1 through May 1, **and three times the** October 1, **and twice the** ~~November 1~~ count of odd-numbered years and will be the basis for classification for the next four years.

Submitted by the WIAA Executive Board on behalf of the Classification Committee.

#### Rationale:

1. *Moving up the timeline for determining a school's classification will assist not only the Member Schools, but also their representative leagues and WIAA Districts in planning, scheduling, and formatting league and qualifying events.*
2. *October enrollment figures provide an accurate snapshot of the student population within a Member School.*

**HS AMENDMENT #4**

**4.0.0 HIGH SCHOOL CLASSIFICATIONS**

Page 9

4.2.2 Students must be counted in their school of residence unless they are enrolled in a separately established Member School. Member Schools in this situation must attempt to gain League affiliation and demonstrate a two-year history of participation in the number of WIAA-sanctioned activities comparable to other WIAA Member Schools of the same enrollment.

**4.2.2.1 For students enrolled in an Alternative Learning Experience ALE or Parent Partnership program:**

- A. ALE programs are not considered separate WIAA member schools.**
- B. ALE students who participate in interscholastic athletics or activities shall be counted toward the enrollment of the WIAA Member School where they participate.**
- C. ALE students who do not participate in interscholastic athletics, activities, or clubs shall not be included in any school’s classification count.**
- D. When ALE programs serve students from multiple districts, enrollment shall be attributed to the school where the student competes, consistent with WIAA definition 18.6.5 (“school of residence”).**

Submitted by the WIAA Executive Board on behalf of the Classification Committee.

*Rationale:*

1. *This amendment provides clear and equitable guidance for how Alternative Learning Experience (ALE) students are applied to WIAA classification counts. ALE programs are not separate WIAA Member Schools but serve students who may choose to participate in athletics or activities either through their resident district or the host district.*
2. *By counting ALE students **only where they participate**, this proposal ensures fairness, prevents enrollment inflation, and aligns with existing WIAA definitions and practices. It promotes consistent reporting across districts, accurately reflects where students compete, and upholds the integrity of the classification system statewide.*

**HS AMENDMENT #5**

**If #5 passes, #26 would be moot**

**4.0.0 HIGH SCHOOL CLASSIFICATIONS**

Page 9

~~4.2.3 A school’s adjusted enrollment based upon the WIAA Executive Board-approved socioeconomic factor, will be used to determine that school’s classification.~~

~~4.2.4 A 2B, 1A, 2A, 3A or 4A school’s adjusted enrollment factor as reported to the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) on the annual reporting date of the classification year will be used to determine that school’s adjusted enrollment. 2B, 1A, 2A, 3A or 4A schools with an adjusted enrollment factor that is greater than the statewide average will have their average monthly enrollment reduced.~~

~~4.2.5 Schools with an adjusted enrollment factor that is greater than the statewide average will be adjusted as follows:~~

~~4.2.4.1 The reduction will match the percentage greater than the statewide average up to 40 percent maximum.~~

~~4.2.4.2 A school could be moved down only one classification due to its adjusted enrollment.~~

### Continuation of HS Amendment #5

Submitted by the WIAA Executive Board on behalf of the Classification Committee.

#### Rationale:

1. *This amendment would eliminate the automatic enrollment deduction based upon the WIAA Executive Board approved socio-economic factor.*
2. *A Member School would continue to have the opportunity to appeal its classification based upon situations that are unique to that school, including its socio-economic standing.*

### HS AMENDMENT #6

---

<b>4.2.6 HIGH SCHOOL CLASSIFICATIONS</b>	<b>NEW RULE</b>	Page 9
--	-----------------	--------

---

#### **4.2.6.1 Private high schools with an enrollment of 90 or more would be required to opt up to the next classification.**

Effective date: 2028-32 classification cycle

Submitted by Meridian High School, Blaine High School, Lummi Nation, Mount Baker High School, and Nooksack Valley High School.

Rationale: This proposal will establish an equitable adjustment for private schools in WIAA classifications, based on their disproportionate success in state championships relative to their enrollment size and representation within each classification.

#### Pros:

1. This would not impact private schools currently at the 2A, 3A, or 4A levels, since those schools already opt up one classification voluntarily.
2. The intent is to address competitive balance while maintaining stability in the number of schools within each classification.
3. Private schools would also have the ability to appeal to move down one classification in football only, using the same appeal process currently in place for opting down in football.

### ML/HS AMENDMENT #7

---

<b>7.1.0 PROPOSED HANDBOOK RULES CHANGES (AMENDMENTS)</b>	Page 13
---	---------

---

**7.1.0 DEFINITION OF AN AMENDMENT:** An amendment is defined as a proposed change to the WIAA Constitution, rules and/or regulations.

**7.1.1 Proposed amendments must meet state law by the Winter Coalition.**

**7.1.2 If a proposed amendment does not meet state law by the Winter Coalition, the Representative Assembly votes will be considered as advisory votes only.**

Submitted by Kingston High School, Bainbridge High School, North Kitsap High School, North Mason High School and Olympic High School.

## Continuation of ML/HS Amendment #7

### Rationale

1. *Last year two amendments were put forward that, if passed, would have been in violation of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW.)*
2. *The WIAA Executive Board should have the authority to protect the member schools from being forced to violate the Revised Code of Washington, any Washington Administrative Code, or state law.*
3. *WIAA member schools should follow the laws of the state of Washington until such time as the Washington Legislative Body changes those laws.*
4. *This proposal requires the WIAA to follow the RCW until such time as the Washington Legislature updates or changes the laws that govern interscholastic sports and activities.*

## ML/HS AMENDMENT #8

**7.7.0 and 8.12.0**

**NEW RULES**

Pages 13, 15

**7.7.0 EXCLUSIVE PROCESS FOR IMPLEMENTING RULE CHANGES:** The process described in WIAA Handbook rule 7.0.0 is the exclusive mechanism for amending the WIAA Constitution, rules, or regulations.

**7.7.1** Any guidance, including board policies, shall not be considered a rule or regulation and shall not be used as a basis for any penalty or sanction against any participant, member, league, or district.

**7.7.2** Any proposed waiver or modification of the WIAA Constitution, rules, or regulations under the emergent and time-sensitive matters exception described in WIAA Handbook Rule 8.12.13 shall not be considered a rule or regulation, and shall not be used as basis for any penalty or sanction, unless that proposal has been submitted to the Representative Assembly at its next annual or a special meeting and adopted by the Representative Assembly.

**7.7.3** Any board policy or other guidance that has been incorporated into the WIAA Constitution without compliance with WIAA Handbook rule 7.0.0 is stricken from the WIAA Constitution and has no effect. Member schools, leagues, and districts shall not be responsible for enforcing or collecting fines, fees, or penalties arising from such unauthorized policies, nor shall they be penalized for failing to do so.

**8.12.0 RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITY OF WIAA EXECUTIVE BOARD:** The WIAA Executive Board's authority is derived solely from the WIAA Constitution. Any amendments to the WIAA Executive Board's authority must occur through the amendment process described in Article 7.0.0. The WIAA Executive Board has no power to unilaterally amend the WIAA Constitution or unilaterally adopt rules or regulations by policy or any other means. Guidance issued by the WIAA Executive Board, including policies, is not a rule or regulation and may not serve as the basis for any penalty or sanction against any participant, member school, league, or district. In accordance with the foregoing, the WIAA Executive Board shall have the following responsibilities:

Effective Date: April 18, 2025

Submitted by the College Place Public School District, Connell School District, Kiona-Benton School District, Royal School District, and the Wahluke School District.

## Continuation of ML/HS Amendment #8

### Pros:

1. Reinforces the agreed-upon function of the Representative Assembly: to vote on and adopt rules and regulations proposed by the membership.
2. Recognizes that the Representative Assembly plays a key role in the rulemaking process.
3. Avoids the WIAA Executive Board amending the WIAA Constitution without involving the Representative Assembly.
4. Promotes transparency and encourages communication with the membership during the amendment process.

Con: Unobjectionable policies that have been incorporated into the Constitution will be removed and can only be added back to the Constitution through the process described in WIAA Handbook rule 7.0.0.

## ML/HS AMENDMENT #9

---

### 8.0.0 WIAA EXECUTIVE BOARD

Page 15

---

**8.12.0 RESPONSIBILITIES OF WIAA EXECUTIVE BOARD** - The WIAA Executive Board shall have the following responsibilities:

8.12.9 Appoint a Fact Finder to investigate alleged WIAA rule(s) violations.

**8.12.9.1** If a fact finder is appointed, the Member School(s) involved will be responsible for all costs, including legal fees, if additional violations are found by the fact finder.

**8.12.9.2** The Member School(s) may be put on probationary status and would not be eligible for the postseason until all fines and fees have been paid.

Submitted by the WIAA Executive Board

### PROS:

1. Motivates Member Schools to cooperate immediately with an investigation
2. Encourages a partnership between the Member School and the WIAA to review allegations prior to the need for a fact finder to ensure factual information is addressed properly
3. Avoids general membership funds from being spent on a fact finder and unnecessary legal fees
4. WIAA already has the ability to recoup legal fees if sued by a Member School (WIAA handbook rule 28.5.12) so this aligns with that philosophy

### CONS:

1. A Member School that refuses to cooperate may have much higher costs than expected
2. Could create a public dispute between a Member School and the WIAA

## ML/HS AMENDMENT #10

### 11.0.0 STANDARDS FOR COMMUNICATION ARTS AND LEADERSHIP INTERSCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY

**11.1.0 ELIGIBLE STUDENTS** - A student, in order to participate in interscholastic forensics, music, or theatre/drama programs, shall meet and maintain both local school standards and WIAA eligibility requirements as listed in Article 18 **except 18.4.0 (Physical Examination.)**

~~11.1.1 — Be enrolled and in regular attendance in a member school (a student is a "regular member" of a school if they are enrolled half time or more as outlined in Article 18);~~

~~11.1.2 — Be a participant in a school designated or organized school activity;~~

~~11.1.3 — Represent only the school that the student regularly attends for interscholastic meets, contests and tournaments unless that student meets the requirement of Article 18.6.4;~~

~~11.1.4 — Not have graduated from any four or three year high school;~~

~~11.1.5 — Season limitations, as outlined in Article 18, apply;~~

~~11.1.6 — If a school district has more restrictive eligibility standards, the student will be held to both the WIAA and the school district standards.~~

Submitted by the WIAA Executive Board

*Rationale: This proposed change would require all students that represent their school in a competition to meet the same standards. **Physical examinations would not be required.***

## ML/HS AMENDMENT #11

### 11.0.0 STANDARDS FOR COMMUNICATION ARTS AND LEADERSHIP INTERSCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY

**11.2.2** In order to participate in interscholastic cheerleading or dance/drill programs, a student shall meet and maintain both local school standards and WIAA eligibility requirements as listed in Article 18, with the exception of ~~transferring students and concurrent season.~~

Submitted by the WIAA Executive Board

*Rationale: With the new rule, all students that transfer schools would be held to the same criteria, regardless of the activity/sport in which they participate.*

## HS AMENDMENT #12

### 17.5.0 ALL LEAGUE/WIAA DISTRICT/STATE GAME

Page 22

**17.5.2** School sponsorship or promotion of practice and/or participation is restricted to the WIAA designated season for that sport **with the exception that the league/WIAA District/WIAA could sponsor an all-league/WIAA District/State CONTEST held within eight days following the conclusion of the designated high school season.**

**17.5.3** Practice shall be limited to each sports season as defined under each sport **one hour on the day of and at the location of the all league/WIAA District/State game.**



## Continuation of HS Amendment #12

Submitted by Steilacoom High School, Eatonville High School, Franklin Pierce School District, Orting High School, and the Peninsula School District.

### Rationale:

1. *WIAA member leagues and districts would be empowered to determine for which sports they wish to offer the event, how rosters are determined, and all logistical and financial decisions regarding the contest.*
2. *Out-of-season coaching would still need to be followed, and it would be up to the league/WIAA District/State to ensure student athletes are not placed on teams coached by their school's coaches.*
3. *The game format will follow all NFHS rules and regulations for that sport. Rule 17.5.4.1 allows students to use their school uniform for All-Star Contests. In sports where multiple uniforms would make play challenging, the member leagues may choose to offer other alternatives.*

### Pros

1. *The proposal is good for kids because it allows them to build relationships and shared experiences with their peers from other schools, while also allowing them to showcase their talents in a special way.*
2. *It is already happening across the state with baseball and softball because their season butts up against the open coaching timeframe. This proposal will allow fall and winter athletes the same opportunity.*
3. *Leagues/WIAA Districts/State can use this to add a layer of meaning to the All-League/WIAA District/State honors.*
4. *It could potentially be a source of revenue for the leagues/WIAA District/WIAA*

### Cons

1. *It could be an added expense to the league and its member schools.*
2. *Students could potentially have to choose between attending the contest or practice in their next sport.*
3. *The inherent risk of injury while playing.*

## HS AMENDMENT #13

### 17.5.8 PRESEASON AND POSTSEASON MEETINGS

### NEW RULE

Page 23

**17.5.8.3 A coach may have one postseason meeting with each athlete on the team, whether individually or in groups, within one month following the end of that team's season.**

Submitted by Squalicum High School, Blaine High School, Ferndale High School, Lynden High School, and Lynden Christian High School.

### Pros:

1. This proposal is good for kids and for athletic programs.
2. This is supported by all constituencies.
3. Appropriate documentation is secured.

### Continuation of HS Amendment #13

4. The perception/reaction is that one postseason meeting will help strengthen communication and support the broader goals of education-based athletics. The postseason meeting would provide an additional opportunity for coaches to check in with student athletes regarding school and their overall well-being.
5. There is no financial cost associated with this amendment.
6. There are no safety concerns. A postseason meeting would be led by a thoroughly vetted and well-trained coach with oversight by the athletic director.
7. This amendment relates directly to the goals of the WIAA, specifically, it potentially improves communication and eventually builds a higher level of trust.
8. This amendment protects students against exploitation by special interests. Rather than receiving feedback by outside sources, athletes will get that information from the coaches that work directly with them.
9. Increases the scope of fairness for all kids to receive feedback.
10. Provides an opportunity for all student-athletes to benefit from additional coaching. This amendment also creates equity and inclusion in skill development at all levels, in a safe environment.

#### Cons:

1. Adding a postseason meeting may blur the boundaries of the defined out-of-season period, potentially leading to increased pressure on athletes to stay engaged year-round.
2. Opens the door for future amendments that further erode the out-of-season protections.
3. Not every student-athlete may be able to attend a postseason meeting due to a personal, academic or work commitments.
4. Requires additional monitoring and documentation, increasing administrative burden on athletic directors.
5. Athletes may feel obligated to attend postseason meetings even if they are optional, especially if they fear missing out on future opportunities or playing time.

### ML/HS AMENDMENT #14

---

#### 17.12.0 SQUAD – DEFINITION

Page 26

---

**17.12.0 SQUAD - DEFINITION:** A group of students playing together against another group of students is a squad. A student is considered a member of a squad when the student is included on a school's eligibility list for that sport.

17.12.1 A school may have only one varsity team in each sport.

17.12.2 A school may have as many sub-varsity teams as allowed by its League.

**17.12.3 If a school has only one squad in a sport, the school must declare if the squad will be the varsity team or a subvarsity team.**

Submitted by NW School, Bush School, Eastside Preparatory School, Overlake School, and South Whidbey High School.

## Continuation of ML/HS Amendment #14

### Rationale:

1. Promotes participation of sub-varsity eligible students while not causing adverse impact to opponents.
2. Allows sub-varsity eligible students to participate at the competitive level that better matches the abilities of the individual, their team, and their opponents alike. This is a win-win-win situation.
3. As there is no bearing on varsity standings or postseason opportunities there is no downside for opponents.
4. Increases safety as there is a higher likelihood of injury when athletes of widely varying abilities are matched.

## HS AMENDMENT #15

### 18.8.6 RESIDENCE RULE WAIVER

Page 39

- 18.14.1.1 A student transferring from a school of choice may gain eligibility only at their resident public school if granted a hardship. **A private school to private school transfer is exempt from this provision provided the student is granted a hardship.**

Submitted by Bellarmine Prep, Annie Wright School, Auburn Mountainview High School, Gonzaga Preparatory School and Seattle Preparatory School.

*Pro: Private school students and their families should not have to prove a hardship for a school that they have never attended. In some cases, students are being denied eligibility when they have never attended a public school. The families have decided to continue with private education during the window of transfer and should not have to sacrifice a year of varsity eligibility when transferring to another private school. This does not negate the need to show a hardship for leaving the first private school; it simply removes the need for a second hardship for their resident public school.*

*Con: I do not see a con to this amendment. Private school students still have to prove a hardship for leaving the original private school.*

## HS AMENDMENT #16

### 18.7.0 RUNNING START ELIGIBILITY

Page 34

- 18.7.4** The Running Start student shall maintain passing grades during ~~the previous and current high school semester/trimester equivalent to the standards set in Rule 18.8.0~~ **each college term for any courses in which they are enrolled at the college and high school level. Grades at the end of each college term are final and high school grades are frozen to determine eligibility. Failure to maintain passing grades at the end of each term equivalent to the standards set in Rule 18.8.0, will result in a suspension period as outlined in 18.8.6.** For the purposes of this rule, one five credit class in a college quarter shall be equal to one high school credit and one three credit class in a college semester shall also be equal to one high school credit.

Running Start students who participate in club sport programs at the post-secondary institution they attend forfeit their interscholastic eligibility for the corresponding WIAA-sanctioned sport.

## Continuation of HS Amendment #16

Submitted by the WIAA Executive Board

*Rationale: Running Start students may access a variety of educational offerings with varying schedules. Some may be full-time students at the college; some may be blended with high school classes. This has led to confusion among member schools as to how to apply the academic standards to these students and when a suspension would be applied to the student. This amendment would help create a consistent deadline of the end of each term. Schools would calculate the final college grades and the current high school grades to determine the eligibility and any five-week suspension if warranted. This would aim to take away confusion of calculating mixed schedules throughout the year.*

### ML AMENDMENT #17

---

#### 18.8.6 ACADEMIC INTERVENTION

#### NEW RULE

Page 35

---

**18.8.6.3.b** The probation period for middle level students shall be from the end of the previous semester through Saturday of the third week of school.

Submitted by La Center High School, Columbia High School (White Salmon), Kalama High School, Montesano High School and Seton Catholic.

Rationale:

1. *Similar to the rule for high school students, this probation period would allow them to begin the school with a “clean slate” and allow them time to acclimate to a new situation.*
2. *Middle level students should be given the same opportunity as high school students to correct their choices when it comes to classwork and passing classes. The consequences should be the same for both high school and middle school students if they do not meet the WIAA academic standards.*
3. *Middle level sports are much shorter than a high school athletic season, and thus, they will be missing out on a large portion of their season for an issue that occurred the previous school year.*

### HS AMENDMENT #18

---

#### 18.8.4 INITIAL WINTER ELIGIBILITY

Page 35

---

18.8.4 A student shall have passed the minimum number of classes as listed in Rule 18.8.0 in the immediately preceding semester/trimester in order to be eligible for competition during the succeeding semester/trimester **the fall and spring. In the winter, a student shall be passing the minimum number of classes in the most recent quarter/trimester to be eligible for competition.** The record at the end of the semester/trimester shall be final, except for those class-for-class replacement credits earned in a regular, accredited school program or alternative educational program accepted by the school district.

## Continuation of HS Amendment #18

Submitted by the WIAA Executive Board

*Rationale: Currently most schools are using some type of hybrid model to establish initial winter eligibility for students instead of previous semester as listed in 18.8.4. By adding the amended language, this provides schools with direction on what grades should be used for initial eligibility in the winter. It also does not penalize a winter athlete for second semester grades of the previous year and allows their eligibility to be based on their current body of work.*

## HS AMENDMENT #19

18.12.2	TRANSFERRING STUDENTS	NEW RULE	Page 39
18.12.2.13	<b>A student enrolling in or transferring to a school pursuant to the rights provided by RCW 28A.225.170 (Native American students seeking to transfer to an off-reservation school) shall be considered immediately eligible provided all other WIAA eligibility rules are met.</b>		

Submitted by Clarkston High School, Ferris High School, Gonzaga Prep, Mead School District and Rogers High School.

Rationale:

- 1. The WIAA transfer rule as written has a discriminatory impact on Native American students. The proposed amendment seeks to right that wrong.*
- 2. State statute grants children who live on Indian reservations the right to enroll in the public school(s) of any contiguous district (see RCW 28A.225.170.) Native American children who participate in sports are currently dissuaded from exercising this right by WIAA's one-year varsity ineligibility mandate embedded in the transfer rule.*
- 3. The WIAA already carves out exemptions from the one-year ineligibility mandate. For example, when a family moves to a military base on a "mission essential" status, they may immediately enroll their children in the public schools of any district they like, and WIAA waives the one-year ineligibility mandate for the students.*
- 4. The number of student transfers this amendment would impact would likely be small, but the amendment's impact for those Native American students seeking to transfer would be immeasurable. The social, emotional, and cultural hurdles Native American students may face when deciding to attend an off-reservation school are pervasive and well-documented. Native American student athletes who perform at the varsity level should not face another hurdle to exercising their right to attend a public school in a District contiguous to their Indian reservation.*
- 5. There are no financial implications with this proposal.*

## HS AMENDMENT #20

### 18.12.0 and 18.12.4 TRANSFERRING STUDENTS and CULTURAL EXCHANGE Pages 37, 39

- 18.12.2.8 A student, ~~except F-1 Visa students to a private school~~, upon enrollment to the initial first level of a private school within a 50-mile radius of the family residence from their public school of residence or their public school of residence from a private school within a 50-mile radius of the family residence.
- 18.12.4.3 F-1 Visa students, **except those enrolling during the initial first level offered by that high school**, are considered transfer students. Graduated students cannot compete interscholastically at any level (i.e., varsity or sub-varsity). This rule may not be appealed.

Submitted by NW School, Bush School, Eastside Preparatory School, Overlake School, and South Whidbey High School.

*Pro: Removes current discrimination in the first year against international students who come to the United States for a four-year high school experience.*

*Con: Possible incentive for schools to recruit internationally to find impact players who would varsity-eligible a year earlier than they would be based on the current rule.*

## ML/HS AMENDMENT #21 - Advisory vote only. Amendment would not be implemented under current State Law.

### 18.16.0 GENDER IDENTITY PARTICIPTION Page 37

~~18.16.0 GENDER IDENTITY PARTICIPATION – All students have the opportunity to participate in WIAA athletics and/or activities in a manner that is consistent with their gender identity. Currently, most athletic programs are offered separately for boys and girls as outlined in Appendix 1. Athletes will participate in programs consistent with their gender identity or the gender most consistently expressed. School personnel responsible for student eligibility will work collaboratively with the student athlete to determine eligibility. Once the student has been granted eligibility to participate in the sport consistent with their gender identity, the eligibility is granted for the duration of the student’s participation and does not need to be renewed every sports season or school year. The WIAA staff is willing to collaborate with any member school seeking assistance regarding gender equity. For additional information on Gender Identity, refer to Appendix 6.~~

- 18.16.0 **GENDER IDENTITY PARTICIPATION** - All Students are encouraged to participate in WIAA athletics and/or activities. All student-athletes regardless of sex, gender identity, or gender expression who meet eligibility criteria are allowed to participate in the ‘Open Category.’ However, in order to maintain fair and equitable competition, participation in the ‘Girls Category’ is limited to students whose biological sex is female as defined in Appendix 3.
- Open Category Sports: Baseball, Basketball, Cheerleading, Cross Country, Dance/Drill, Football, Golf, Soccer, Swimming/Diving, Tennis, Track and Field, Wrestling**
- Girls Category Sports: Girls Basketball, Girls Bowling, Girls Cross Country, Girls Flag Football, Girls Golf, Girls Gymnastics, Girls Soccer, Girls Fastpitch Softball, Girls Slowpitch Softball, Girls Swimming/Diving, Girls Tennis, Girls Track and Field, Girls Volleyball, and Girls Wrestling.**

## Continuation of ML/HS Amendment #21

***For eligibility determination, biological sex may be verified using an original birth certificate or, if unavailable, an affidavit from a licensed physician. In rare cases involving student-athletes with differences in sex development such as intersex conditions, appeals should be reviewed on a case-by-case basis in accordance with WIAA handbook rule 19.0.0. Student Appeals of Ineligibility.***

***Effective Date: As soon as possible***

Submitted by the Lynden School District, Blaine School District, Colville School District, Eastmont School District, Kennewick School District, Lake Chelan School District, Lynden Christian School, Mead School District, Moses Lake School District, Okanogan School District, Omak School District, and the Tonasket School District.

### *Rationale:*

*The policy is modeled after Alaska's program which replaces boys' sports with an open division for all student-athletes while also creating eligibility restrictions for girls' sports and girls' divisions.*

### *PROS:*

- 1. Encourages participation for all students.*
- 2. Reinforces WIAA's mission to provide opportunities for all students to excel in athletics, performing arts, and other activities while promoting fair play, sportsmanship, and teamwork.*
- 3. Strengthens all students for life through participation in excellent, fair, safe, and accessible activities.*

## **ML/HS AMENDMENT #22**

### **20.0.0 EJECTION FROM CONTEST**

Page 49

#### **ORIGINAL**

20.1.3 The first ejection of the season shall result, at a minimum, in the ejected person (student, coach, other school representative) being suspended until after the next school contest in that sport at the same level of competition from which the person was ejected has been completed.

**20.1.5 Any individual who is not a rostered player, coach, or authorized game personnel who enters the competition space and engages in a verbal or physical altercation will be suspended for a minimum of 25% of the season.**

Submitted by the WIAA Executive Board

*Rationale: This proposed rule change would standardize penalties across the state for individuals that enter the court/field/deck without authorization and engage in a verbal or physical altercation.*

**ML/HS AMENDMENT #23 – Advisory vote only. Amendment would not be implemented under current State Law.**

20.0.0	EJECTION FROM CONTEST	NEW RULE	Page 49
20.1.3	The first ejection of the season shall result, at a minimum, in the ejected person (student, coach, other school representative) being suspended until after the next school contest in that sport at the same level of competition from which the person was ejected has been completed.		
20.1.4	<b>Schools have the ability to enhance penalties. The WIAA prescribed penalty is the minimum schools must assess to students and/or coaches.</b>		

Submitted by the WIAA Executive Board

*Rationale: Even though schools have always had the ability to enhance a suspension following an ejection, stating it in the WIAA handbook will allow school administrators to have a standardized rule in place for reference.*

**ML/HS AMENDMENT #24**

20.0.0	EJECTION FROM CONTEST	NEW RULE	Page 49
Move the current 20.1.4 to 20.1.7			
20.1.4	The <b>If an individual receives a</b> second ejection <del>in</del> <b>during</b> the same sport and season or <b>during a subsequent sport and season</b> , that <b>individual</b> shall <del>result in being</del> <b>be suspended for 40 percent of the</b> contests at the same level of competition in which the ejection occurred. <del>the remainder of the season of that sport.</del>		
20.1.5	<b>If an individual receives a third ejection during the same school year, that individual shall be suspended for one full calendar year from the date of the third ejection.</b>		
20.1.6	<b>Following a second or third ejection, an individual may appeal to the WIAA Executive Director for reinstatement.</b>		
20.1.7	Should a participant be unable to complete a suspension during the sports season in which the ejection occurs, the suspension shall be carried over into the participant's succeeding season of participation. In order for the suspension in the succeeding season of participation to meet this requirement, the participant must be a member of the team for the entire season for that sport.		

Submitted by the WIAA Executive Board.

*Rationale:*

- 1. The proposed change would standardize the penalty assessed to a student following a second ejection, regardless of at what point in the season, or during which season, it occurred.*
- 2. The new rule provides clear and escalating penalties for repeated ejections across a student's participation during the entire school year, ensuring consistent accountability for cumulative misconduct.*
- 3. This new rule will help to reinforce the importance of sportsmanship, to hold student-athletes and coaches accountable for their actions throughout the school year and will help schools to be consistent on how individuals with multiple ejections are handled.*



**Continuation of ML/HS Amendment #24**

4. *Appealing to the WIAA Executive Director for reinstatement after a second or third ejection will continue to be available.*

**ML/HS AMENDMENT #25**

---

<b>23.0.0 COACHES</b>	<b>NEW RULE</b>	Page 55
-----------------------	-----------------	---------

---

**23.5.7** Before the conclusion of their **second year** of coaching, a member school coach (paid or volunteer) must complete the two NFHS coaches education classes, Foundations of Coaching: Developing Youth Through Sport and Adolescent Development and Centering Student Athlete Needs.

Submitted by the WIAA Executive Board.

*Rationale: These classes will provide outstanding basic information for beginning coaches.*

---

<b>HS AMENDMENT #26</b>	<b>NOTE: IF HS AMENDMENT #5 PASSES, #26 WOULD BE MOOT</b>
-------------------------	---

---

<b>25.1.6 USING AVERAGE MONTHLY ENROLLMENT TO DETERMINE ALLOCATIONS</b>	Page 58
---	---------

---

25.1.6.3 By using the Allocation Formula, the WIAA Executive Board shall determine allocations based on the **average monthly** enrollment as reported during the classification year. The WIAA Executive Board is empowered to make decisions regarding the fractional allocations.

**a) If a school appeals its classification based on actual or adjusted enrollment, and is approved to play in a lower classification, the highest enrollment for that lower classification will be assigned to that school for breaking ties in the allocations.**

Submitted by Quincy High School, Brewster High School, Davis High School, Eastmont High School, Ellensburg High School, Othello High School, Selah High School, and Wilson Creek High School.

Rationale

1. Classifications and allocations for state events are not the same.
2. While utilizing a socio-economic factor to determine a school's classification might be appropriate, all students included in the average monthly enrollment should be considered when determining allocations, and in particular, the tie-breaking method needed for determining allocations.

**ML/HS AMENDMENT #27**

---

<b>31.0.0 CONTEST RULES</b>	<b>NEW RULE</b>	Page 70
-----------------------------	-----------------	---------

---

**31.1.0.1** By league adoption, **WIAA-adopted** rules for high school subvarsity or middle level contests could be modified.

Submitted by Nooksack Valley High School, Blaine High School, Lynden High School, Meridian High School, and Mount Baker High School.

## CONTINUATION OF ML/HS AMENDMENT #27

### Pros:

1. This proposal would allow each league the ability to adjust high school subvarsity or middle level game/playing rules in WIAA sanctioned sports to enhance participation, inclusion, speed of play, and equity in competitive balance.
2. The adjustments are in no way meant to gain any advantage in contest outcomes, but rather a healthy experience for athletes, coaches, and fans.
3. Some examples might include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Adjusting scoring in middle level football to allow two points for a point after touchdown and one point for a pass/run type of play.
  - b. Allowing rules for free substitution on defense in baseball and softball without any re-entry violations. Also allowing for open lineups batting everyone.
  - c. The ability to limit defensive strategies in basketball such as pressing or trapping when ahead by a large margin.
4. Given the fact that leagues meet regularly and have a wide base of experience with these various sports and their playing rules, this expertise and knowledge could be utilized to improve subvarsity contests in the areas of participation, competitive equity, and speed of play. Medical, legal and social/emotional aspects would be taken into consideration as part of the process.
5. The league president would be responsible to ensure any of the potential adjustments are communicated clearly to their league officials association, their WIAA District Board and the WIAA office.
6. There are no additional costs associated for schools with this proposal.

### Cons:

1. None from our perspective.

## HS AMENDMENT #28

---

<b>39.2.0</b>	<b>HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS FLAG FOOTBALL</b>	Page 27
---------------	--	---------

---

Rule 3-1-1: The running clock time for a game shall be 40 minutes for high school **sub-varsity games and 60 minutes for high school varsity games**. There shall be two-20 minute halves for **sub-varsity games and two 30-minute halves for varsity games, with a running clock.** ~~There will be clock stoppages~~ **The clock will stop after a change of possession or a score and during the last two minutes of each half.**

Submitted by Rogers High School, Curtis High School, Puyallup High School, Spanaway Lake High School and Sumner High School.

### Pros:

1. *A longer game further legitimizes the sport of Flag Football within the landscape of high school sports, enhances player development, and fosters greater skill acquisition and a deeper understanding of the game's strategy.*

## CONTINUATION OF HS AMENDMENT #28

2. *The game's exciting growth has brought a significant number of student-athletes who are new to football. A longer game would provide more opportunities for substitutions, allow coaches to give more players meaningful playing time, and create a more substantial and developmental game experience for every participant.*
3. *During transitions, teams will feel less rushed because the race against the clock is less urgent.*
4. *Clock stoppages during transitions will improve the consistency of the length of actual game action between different officiating crews.*
5. *Some leagues will be playing games on week nights against just one other school. With a 40-minute running clock game, it can feel like the ratio of travel time to game time is too high. With a longer game, that ratio drops to a more comfortable level.*

### Cons:

1. *If a league plays during the winter season, the varsity game may extend into the colder evenings a little longer.*

## HS AMENDMENT #29

---

### 42.3.0 HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

### NEW RULE

Page 81

---

#### 42.3.4 Leagues and school districts will implement a tracking system for yellow card accumulation. Yellow card accumulation and player suspension:

42.3.4.1 Three yellow cards = one half suspension during the next match.

42.3.4.2 Five yellow cards = full match suspension beginning with the next match.  
Player cannot return until parent and athlete meeting has taken place with building administrator/athletic director

42.3.4.3 Seven yellow cards = two match suspension beginning with the next match..  
Player cannot return until parent and athlete meeting has taken place with building administrator and athletic director

#### 42.3.5 Player suspension based on double yellow card disqualifications – Any player with a second two yellow card disqualifications in a season will be suspended for the following contest and will be required to follow their league's process for reinstatement to include the WIAA handbook ejection rule and the completion of the NFHS Sportsmanship course. Any player with a third double yellow card disqualification in a season will be suspended for the following two contests.

Submitted by Federal Way High School, Todd Beamer High School, Decatur High School, Thomas Jefferson High School, and Auburn Mountainview High School.

*Rationale Over the past two years since the adoption of the double yellow card disqualification there have been 260 disqualifications:*

*2023-24: Girls 17, boys 107*

*2024-25: Girls 18, boys 118*

## CONTINUATION OF HS AMENDMENT #29

While this is separate from the 460 red card ejections over that same time span, the double yellow card disqualification rule allows schools the chance to provide educational support for a return to safe play for interscholastic players. Currently there is no process in place to limit these types of infractions from continuing. Theoretically a player could have 16 disqualifications by rule in a season and would be allowed to play in the next match.

## HS AMENDMENT #30

### 43.0.0 HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

Page 82

- 43.3.0 **PLAYER/TEAM SEASON LIMITATION:** 20 regulation contests are allowed per season. Every contest played, whether in interschool games, interschool scrimmages, or exhibition contests must count as one of the 20 contests for the team.
- 43.3.1 **EXCEPTION:** A team may play in one two-day tournament or two one-day tournaments and be allowed to count each tournament as one of their 20 regular season contests.
- 43.3.1.1 If an individual or a team chooses to play in more than two tournament days in a season, the team must declare which tournament day counts as one of the 20 contests for the individual or the team. Each opponent played in any subsequent tournament(s) counts as one of the 20 contests for the individual or the team.
- 43.3.2 Starting a contest shall count as one of the 20 contests allowed for an individual.
- 43.3.3 Any substitute who does not play in more than two innings of a contest shall not have it count against the 20-individual season limitation.
- 43.3.4 **PLAYER/TEAM DAILY LIMITATION:** The number of contests played on any day by players and teams shall not exceed four contests. A tournament may start the preceding evening if the following conditions are met:

Submitted by DeSales High School, Colton High School, Dayton High School, Garfield-Palouse High School, Pomeroy High School, and Waitsburg High School.

*Rationale: Softball is built to handle more games safely, as the underhand pitching motion carries far less injury risk than baseball and does not require pitch limits. Tournament play is already central to the sport – at the state level, teams may play up to six games in just two days without issue. Allowing two tournaments during the regular season would mirror volleyball’s 16 + 2 format, creating consistency across sports. An 18+2 model provides schools with scheduling flexibility, stronger competition, and better postseason preparation – all without extending the season or compromising athlete safety.*

## ML/HS AMENDMENT #31

### 43.0.0 HIGH SCHOOL FASTPITCH AND SLOWPITCH SOFTBALL

NEW RULE

Page 83

- 43.4.1.6 For safety concerns, the on-deck batter may use either warm-up batting circle while maintaining a clear sight line between the catcher and pitching coach.

Submitted by Juanita High School, Chief Sealth High School, the Everett School District (three high schools), Gig Harbor High School, the Lake Washington School District, and North Beach High School.

### CONTINUATION OF ML/HS AMENDMENT #31

Rationale: *The KingCo League utilized this rule for the past seven years, officially experimented with the rule during the 2025 fastpitch season and believe it creates a safer warm-up circle for batters. It is important to note that, as one of the major governing bodies that oversee softball in the United States, USA Softball does allow the use of either on-deck circle. "On-deck batter can use either on-deck circle as long as the on-deck batter is behind the batter and not on the batter's open side"*  
(<https://www.nfhs.org/media/1019874/2024-rule-differences.pdf>, page 32.)

*Pro:* Increased player safety. Warming up in front of the batter opens up the possibility of being struck by a foul ball with very little time to react. In allowing on-deck athletes to warm-up behind the batter, this concern is significantly reduced.

*Con:* Potential sportsmanship issues with the on-deck batter in front of the opponent's dugout (though most opposing players will be in the field and coaches will be in the dugout – not on the bases – to supervise the bench athletes.)

### HS AMENDMENT #32

---

<b>43.0.0 HIGH SCHOOL FASTPITCH SOFTBALL</b>	<b>NEW RULE</b>	Page 82
--	-----------------	---------

---

**43.4.1.4** NFHS Rule 4-Section 2-Article 3: Game ending procedures: During all regular season and postseason games, the game shall end when the losing team is behind 15 or more runs after three full innings, **12 or more runs after four full innings**, or ten or more runs after five full innings. A full inning can be after the visiting team batted if they are the team that is behind by 15, **12** or ten runs.

Submitted by La Center High School, Columbia High School (White Salmon), Kalama High School, Montesano High School and Seton Catholic High School.

*Pros:*

1. *This would help keep the game from getting out of hand when there is clearly a more dominant team.*
2. *WIAA District 4 has used this rule for several years and it was well received.*

*Cons:*

1. *The amount of time for each game would be reduced should a team be up by 15 or more runs.*

### HS AMENDMENT #33

---

<b>47.2.0, 47.63.0 VOLLEYBALL JAMBOREE</b>	Page 86
--	---------

---

**47.2.0** JAMBOREE – A jamboree is an abbreviated contest during which a team may not play in more than ~~six~~ **three** sets. A jamboree could be held after five practices have been completed. All general jamboree rules also apply. Please refer to general jamboree rules.

**47.63.0** JAMBOREE – A ~~volleyball~~ jamboree is an abbreviated contest during which a team may not play in more than ~~four~~ **three** sets. A jamboree could be held after five practices have been completed. All general jamboree rules also apply. Please refer to general jamboree guidelines.

Submitted by the WIAA Executive Board

## CONTINUATION OF HS AMENDMENT #33

### Rationale

Rationale: In all other sports, schools participating in a jamboree are allowed to play the equivalent of one-half of a regular season contest. Most high schools play the best three out of five matches and most middle level schools play the best out of three matches. In both cases, during the jamboree schools are allowed to play more than during a regular season contest.

## HS AMENDMENT #34

### 48.4.0 HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING PLAYER/MATCH LIMITATION

Page 87

**48.4.0 PLAYER/MATCH LIMITATION:** Each and every match wrestled must count as one of the ~~45~~ **51** contests for the individual.

48.4.1 An individual may not wrestle more than ~~45~~ **51** contests on 16 dates prior to any State-Qualifying Tournament.

48.4.2 Each day of competition must count as one of the 16 allowed team dates except as indicated below. Each individual is limited to the daily match limitation.

48.4.2.1 Matches wrestled during an approved WIAA Foundation Dual Match do not count toward the ~~45~~ **51**-contest season limit.

Submitted by the Sedro-Woolley School District, Bellingham School District, Burlington-Edison School District, Mount Baker School District and Mount Vernon School District.

### Pros:

1. *The number of matches allowed at a tournament has increased from 5 to 6 since we last updated our total match count.*
2. *There was a recent NFHS rule change which no longer allows a coach to pull a wrestler from a tournament without impacting their match count. With this rule in place, a wrestler who is close on match count is not able to even enter the tournament.*
3. *Last year we had wrestlers that were forced to sit out matches because of their proximity to the match count limit. In events that would impact state seeding, raising the match count to mirror the change of matches now allowed in a day, would lessen this concern. This will help to ensure that all wrestlers can compete in their 16 team scheduled outings.*
4. *Oregon has 18 appearances and 50 matches. The ask is 16 outings and 51 matches*

### Con:

1. *Wrestlers have the option to wrestle 51 times in 4 months.*

## ML AMENDMENT #35

### 48.6.0 MIDDLE LEVEL WRESTLING

Page 88

48.65.1 There shall be no more than two contests per week per team and no more than four matches per week per individual **except during one week of the season when six matches will be allowed during a one day tournament.**

A one day wrestling tournament will count as one team outing. A wrestler may wrestle in no more than ~~four~~ **six** matches in the tournament **one time during the season.**

**CONTINUATION OF ML AMENDMENT #35**

Submitted by Granger High School, East Valley Middle School, Grandview Middle School, Harison Middle School, Selah Middle School, West Valley Middle School, and Zillah Middle School.

*Rationale: Increasing the number of matches for a one-day tournament allows for larger brackets and allows for those brackets to be wrestled to completion.*